

OBITUARY



FRANK LESLIE CAMPBELL  
*Honorary Member ESW*  
1898-1979

In the afternoon of July 13, 1979, Frank Leslie Campbell died in George Washington University Hospital, near his home, 2475 Virginia Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20037. He passed on after a long, useful, and adventurous career. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania September 5, 1898. In preparation for his original and superior contributions to entomology and related sciences, he attended Haverford College and received a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He first became interested in entomology while working as a chemist for the Japanese Beetle Laboratory in Riverton, New Jersey during the early 1920's and then pursued graduate studies, receiving a Master of Science degree from Rutgers University and a Doctor of Science from Harvard University, both in entomology.

After completing graduate studies at Harvard, Dr. Campbell taught entomology and general physiology (1926-1927) at New York University. In 1927 he was appointed to a research position in the Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, and was located in the Washington area. For the next nine years he was a pioneer and leader in basic research for the application of exact physical and chemical procedures to obtain a better understanding of the structure and behavior of insect pests and their susceptibility to toxic substances. An outstanding contribution that resulted from research conducted in the laboratory under Dr. Campbell's direction, was the development of the so-called "aerosol bomb" so widely and effectively used for the control of mosquitoes and other flying insects. During this

period there was also developed an improved method for determining lethal doses of insecticides for leaf eating insects, and a more reliable system for testing quality control of fly sprays. During this period he was a founder of the Insecticide Society of Washington (1934).

From 1936 to 1942 he was a member of the faculty of Ohio State University, directing the work of graduate students in insect physiology and toxicology and assisted in administering the University's research foundation engaged in military research. At this time he served also as a consultant on agricultural chemicals essential for food production for the Office for Agricultural War Relations.

After World War II Dr. Campbell returned to the Washington area to accept a position as editor of the *Scientific Monthly* of the AAAS and continued in this capacity for the next five years. His highly regarded column in the monthly, "The Brownstone Tower" referred to his office in the Smithsonian Institution Castle Building.

Prior to retirement in 1964, he served for eleven years as Executive Secretary of the Biology and Agriculture Division of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council. While holding that position he made many contributions to entomology.

Dr. Campbell was a regular attendant at meetings of the Entomological Society of Washington, serving as President in 1957, and made many outstanding contributions. He was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 1979.

He served as President of the Washington Academy of Sciences in 1959.

Following retirement he continued research, primarily in insect morphology at the University of Vienna, Austria, and performed further work in New South Wales, Australia. During four summers in the 1970's he was visiting professor of entomology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Dr. Campbell rendered distinguished service to the Entomological Society of America and to the Society's Eastern Branch, and was made Honorary Member of ESA in 1969. In 1979 he was elected by ESA as recipient of the highest award of the Eastern Branch, "The L. O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award."

He was a scholar, an outstanding teacher, and dedicated public servant. Many of his former students have made invaluable contributions to entomology and related biological sciences. For 32 years he took time to keep a diary of exceptional quality. His post-retirement research and impressions while on a two year trip around the world were ably compiled in a diary type summary, "Better Late . . . an Entomologist Post-retirement Renovation," 1973, 371 pages, was printed in a limited edition, 16 copies, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His impressive list of publications number more than 85 and cover a span of 56 years.

Frank had special skills as teacher and research advisor. He developed close personal and professional friendships with his former students and research associates that continued until his death. In addition to helping many American entomologists, he freely gave valuable guidance and support to scientists from other countries in the development of their professional opportunities in the United States. It is impossible to summarize fully in a few words the total impact of Frank Leslie Campbell's life in the service of humanity.

He is survived by his wife, Ina, of Washington, D.C., a son, Drew, of Englewood, California, and a daughter, Mrs. Lucile Cooper, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and seven grandchildren.

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#### NOTE

##### The Identity of *Pelopsis nudiuscula* (Acari: Oribatei)

The monotypic oribatid mite genus *Pelopsis* was proposed by Hall (1911. Pomona Col. J. Entomol. 3:504-510) and considered at that time to be a relative of *Pelops* (now in the family Pelopidae). Probably due to gross misinterpretations in the description, which are noted below, neither the genus nor its type-species, *P. nudiuscula* Hall, from Connecticut, have since been mentioned in the primary zoological literature. Balogh (1972. The oribatid genera of the world. Akademiai Kiado, Budapest) listed *Pelopsis* among the Pelopidae, but both misspelled the species epithet and gave its distribution as European, instead of North American. No type-specimen exists, but the figure included in the original description sufficiently allows the following interpretations.

I consider *P. nudiuscula* a junior subjective synonym of *Pelops bifurcatus*, described by Ewing (1909. J. N.Y. Entomol. Soc. 17:116-136) from Illinois (NEW SYNONYMY). This conclusion is based on the examination of a type-specimen of the latter in the USNM collections, several non-type specimens from New York, and Woolley's (1958. Trans. Am. Microsc. Soc. 77:258-279) redescription of *P. bifurcatus*.

Hall (op. cit.) mistook the identity of several structures when describing *P. nudiuscula*. Those characterized as bladelike lamellae, with deeply emarginate cusps, are actually the large, spatulate, bifurcate interlamellar setae